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Letter dated 13 January 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention to the fact that the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations continues to have the initiative in terms of the Security Council resolutions and declarations concerning Côte d'Ivoire. We believe that at the current stage of the conflict, the recognized implication of France does not permit the impartiality necessary for playing such a role.

During the events of November 2004, the French force (Operation Licorne) showed its bias by destroying all the military aircraft of our defence and security forces, bombarding our presidential palaces and firing live ammunition at unarmed demonstrators. My Government, therefore, no longer wishes the Council's statements on Côte d'Ivoire to be initiated by France.

Furthermore, my Government has requested the Security Council to integrate the French force into the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), in the interest of equitable management of the crisis. One cannot be both judge and judged, and such a situation could threaten the very credibility of our Organization.

Although these requests have already been addressed repeatedly to both the Council and the Secretary-General, there has so far been no response. My Government is confident that the members of the Council will show their understanding and take our concerns into consideration.

I would be grateful if you would have this letter published as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Philippe **Djangone-Bi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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